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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/27/2018  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [CVIS](#) [EU](#) [BO](#) [LG](#)  
SUBJECT: LATVIA OPEN TO REVIEW OF BELARUS VISA BAN LIST

Classified By: Ambassador Charles Larson, for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

(C) DCM and Pol-Econ Chief met for lunch with Edgars Skuja, MFA U/S for Bilateral Affairs, on August 27. In discussions regarding Belarus, Skuja mentioned that the MFA was reviewing possible positive responses to the GOB in light of their release of Alexandr Kozulin and two other key political prisoners. He stressed that such responses were contingent on free and fair parliamentary elections in September. However, given the pace of EU decision making, it was important to begin to plan now. Skuja said that Latvia would be willing to review lifting travel restrictions on targeted Belarus officials currently on the visa ban list. He stressed that he was not advocating complete abolition of the list, and that they were still considering who might be good candidates for removal if the elections went well.  
LARSON